



THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
WASHINGTON

April 12, 2001

Welcome Home! The men and women of the Department of Defense are properly proud of each of you!

Throughout your days in detention, you have conducted yourselves with honor and professionalism, and held your heads high. America could not have had better representatives of the ideals we value. You are models for the noble work that men and women in uniform perform on behalf of this nation every day. You put your lives at risk in service so that the citizens of a grateful nation can live their lives in peace and freedom.

The President is grateful, I am grateful, America is grateful, and we welcome you back to U.S. soil. May your reunion with family and loved ones be a joyous one indeed!

A large, stylized handwritten signature in black ink, likely belonging to the Secretary of Defense at the time.